

Minutes
Town of Acton Community Preservation Committee (CPC)
February 23, 2017
Acton Memorial Library

Members Present: Bill Alesbury (Vice-Chair), Peter Berry, Tory Beyer, Dean Charter (Associate), Walter Foster (Chair, by phone), Susan Mitchell-Hardt, Carolyn Kirkpatrick (Associate), Ken Sghia-Hughes, Joe Will (Clerk), Ray Yacouby

Members Absent: Amy Green

Others Present: Roland Bartl (Acton Planning Director), Roland Bourdon (Acton Finance Committee), Anne Forbes (Iron Work Farm Secretary), Michaela Moran (Iron Work Farm President),

Walter, attending by phone, asked Ken to chair the meeting. Ken opened the meeting at 7:33 PM.

I. Citizen Concerns

- None

II. Minutes of February 16, 2017

- Per Walter: Change

Per Walter, the Chair of the Boxborough Recreation Commission is willing to give another try to having Boxborough fund in 2017 a portion of the Skate Plaza.

to

Per Walter: The Chair of the Boxborough Recreation Commission may be willing to give another try to having Boxborough fund in 2017 a portion of the Skate Plaza.

It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously (6-0) by roll call to approve the minutes as changed. Tory and Peter were not yet present.

III. Project Deliberations — Reach final consensus; Vote recommended slate of projects

- Roland Bartl displayed overhead the 2016 project spreadsheet, and committee members discussed line items for which there was not yet consensus.
 - Morrison Farm Well (\$28K requested): Some feel that there is a fairly small amount of cost savings for a \$28K investment and the \$28K would be better placed in the Open Space set-aside. Others held their position on approving the \$28K grant. There was also discussion on the Committee arriving at consensus on funding decisions.
 - NARA Parking Lot Expansion (\$50K requested): Addressing an issue from the previous CPC meeting: Tom Tidman and the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (DOT) resident engineer for the Bruce

Freeman Rail Trail (BFRT) will meet tomorrow to discuss the possibility of changing DOT's BFRT plans for the Lower Parking Lot. The DOT representative then would decide either to not recommend any change, or to recommend changes to those above him/her. Consequently, any change decision by the DOT would not be timely for Acton Town Meeting (TM).

An alternative to funding both the proposed Upper and Lower Parking Lots (\$25K each) would be to fund only the Upper Parking Lot.

It was moved and seconded that the CPC fund the Upper Parking Lot at \$25K.

Subsequent discussion centered on the current Lower Parking, the proposed addition to the Lower Parking, and the DOT's existing plans for the former.

It was voted unanimously (8-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

– Open Space Set-Aside (\$475K requested):

It was noted that there was near unanimity to approving \$450K for the Set-Aside.

It was moved and seconded that the CPC fund projects as listed in the “Median” column of the 2016 spreadsheet. (Note: This column showed \$28K for the Morrison Farm Well, \$25K (funding already voted) for the NARA Parking Lot Expansion, and \$450K for the Open Space Set-Aside.)

Subsequent discussion centered on whether to add the unappropriated balance of CPC funds to the Open Space Set-Aside. It was pointed out that the amount stated to be turned back by the West Acton Baptist Church is approximate, and it may be possible that the unappropriated balance shown on the spreadsheet would be less than shown. Given 1) the above, 2) the fact that this year's balance would be part of next year's CPA fund, and 3) the need to finalize the TM Warrant article by 03/08,

it was voted unanimously (8-0) by roll call to approve the motion.

IV. Draft Town Meeting Article — Review & finalize

- Roland Bartl displayed overhead the draft of the CPA TM Article. The CPC commented on it item by item. Roland made changes as agreed upon.

It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously (8-0) by roll call to approve the article as revised, subject to Roland changing the numbers to match the final numbers in the 2016 spreadsheet and to respond appropriately to any suggestions from Town Counsel.

Per Ken (as Chair): Roland will send to Committee members any substantive changes that he feels are needed for whatever reason.

V. Administrative Updates

- The next CPC meeting will be 03/23. Town Meeting is April 3.
- This was Ken's last meeting. Nancy Kolb, former Director of Pupil Services for Acton's schools, will replace Ken on 04/01 as the Acton Housing Authority CPC representative. Walter thanks Ken for chairing this meeting (and for everything), a perfect swan song.

- The CPA Committee is still trying to finalize things. It will be up to a citizens group to make recommendations about changes suggested in the Committee's report.

9:07 PM — It was moved, seconded, and voted unanimously (8-0) by roll call to adjourn.